



Borough of Kidderminster.



REPORTS

ON THE

Health of the Borough

BY THE

Medical Officer of Health

AND

Sanitary Inspector.

1909.

KIDDERMINSTER :

PRINTED AT THE NEWS OFFICE.

HEALTH COMMITTEE

(Kidderminster Corporation).



Chairman :

COUNCILLOR O. C. P. EVANS, M.D.

Vice-Chairman :

ALDERMAN T. PENSOTTI, J.P.

THE MAYOR,

COUNCILLOR CLEMENT DALLEY (EX-OFFICIO).

THE DEPUTY MAYOR,

COUNCILLOR JOHN HAROLD WATSON (EX-OFFICIO).

ALDERMAN G. A. WESTON,

COUNCILLOR W. ADAM, J.P.,

„ W. CHADWICK,

„ W. H. MOORE, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.,

„ W. COOKE,

„ F. W. OAKES,

„ F. TANDY,

„ J. RAY, J.P.

Medical Officer of Health :

DAVID CORBET, M.R.C.S.

Public Analyst :

E. W. T. JONES, F.I.C.

Sanitary Inspector :

J. T. COWDEROY, C.S.I.

Assistant Inspector :

F. ARNOLD.

ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR 1909.



TOWN HALL,

January 31st, 1910.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present the following Report upon the Health and Sanitary condition of the Borough of Kidderminster for the year 1909.

The Return of Deaths and of Cases of Infectious Diseases I herewith hand you duly completed.

During the year there have been 560 Births, or 22 67 in the thousand :—Males 290, Females 270.

The total number of Deaths from all causes which have been registered is 483 ; the number in each case being 251 Males and 232 Females.

Deaths in the Workhouse 62. Residents 49. Non-Residents 13.

Deaths in the Infirmary 51. Residents 25. Non-Residents 26. Deaths in Infectious Diseases Hospital 2 (Borough Cases).

The ages at which the deaths have taken place during the year are as follows :—

Under 1 year	..	93
Between 1 and 5 years	..	52
„ 5 „ 15 years	..	13
„ 15 „ 25 years	..	19
„ 25 „ 65 years	..	145
„ 65 and upwards	..	161
Total	..	<u>483</u>

The Death Rate per thousand for the year is 19·55.

NOTE.—If we subtract the deaths of non-residents registered as occurring in the Workhouse and Infirmary, the Death Rate would be 17·97.

The Deaths from the principal Zymotic Diseases during last year and the nine previous years have been as follows :—

DISEASES.	1900	1901	1902	1903	1904	1905	1906	1907	1908	1909
Small Pox ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	.	...	..	..
Scarlet Fever	2	..	1	1	2	..	..	..	..	..
Typhoid Fever	1	2	..	..	1	2	..	..	1	..
Measles ..	16	3	12	2	..	2	1	..	..	36
Diphtheria ..	17	6	2	3	1	2	2	1	2	..
Diarrhœa ..	7	15	12	7	11	13	14	9	3	3
Whoop. Cough	3	15	..	1	4	8	7	8	3	4
Totals ..	46	41	27	14	19	27	24	18	9	43

SCARLET FEVER.

We have 62 Notifications of this Disease for 1909 and two deaths, against 27 and no deaths in 1908.

BOROUGH CASES ONLY.

MONTH.	Notifi- cations.	Remov'd to Hospital	Nursed at Home.	Deaths in Hospital	Deaths at Home.
January .	5	5	...	...
February ...	4	3	1	...	
March ...	1	1	...	...
April ...	1	1	...	...
May ...	1	1	...	1	
June ...	1	...	1	...	
July ...	7	5	2	...	
August ...	1	1	...	...
September ...	20	17	3	1	
October ...	6	5	1	...	
November ...	7	6	1	...	
December ...	8	4	4	...	
Totals ...	62	49	13	2	

NOTE.—The Deaths occurring in the Borough Hospital are not included in the Borough Zymotic Death Rate, as the Institution is outside the Borough, therefore is not included in the Borough Registration District.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1909,

for the Borough of Kidderminster, on the administration of the Factory
and Workshops Acts, 1901, in connection with

FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS, LAUNDRIES, WORKPLACES AND
HOMEWORK.

1.—INSPECTION.

PREMISES.	Number of		
	Inspec- tion.	Written Notices.	Prosecu- tions.
Factories (including Factory Laundries) ..	12	2	—
Workshops " " " ..	150	{ 23	—
Workplaces " " " ..	151		—
Total ..	313	25	—

2.—DEFECTS FOUND.

PARTICULARS.	Number of Defects.			Number of Prosecu- tions.
	Found.	Reme- died.	Referred to H.M. Inspect'r	
<i>Nuisances under the Public Health Act :—</i>				
Want of Cleanliness				
Want of Ventilation				
Overcrowding				
Want of Drainage of Floors.. ..				
Other Nuisances.. ..	22	22		
Sanitary { Insufficient	2	2		
accommodation { Unsuitable or defective	1	1		
Not Separate for Sexes				
Sect. 22 P.H.A.A. Act, 1890, is adopted in Kidderminster				
Water Carriage is the system generally enforced in Kidderminster				
The Standard of sufficiency adopted in the Borough is that contained in the Home Office Order, Feb. 4th, 1903				
<i>Offences under the Factory & Workshops Act</i>				
Illegal occupation of Underground Bake- house (s. 101)				
Breach of special Sanitary requirements for Bakehouse (s s. 97 to 100)				
Failure as regards list of Outworkers (s. 107)				
Giving out work to be { infected (s.110)				
done in premises which { (s. 108)				
are				
Allowing wearing apparel to be made in premises infected with Scarlet Fever or Smallpox (s. 109)				
Other Offences				
Total ..	25	25		

CLASS.	Number
Matters notified to H.M. Inspectors of Factories :—	
Failing to affix Abstract of the Factory and Workshop Act (s. 133)	
Action taken in matters referred by H.M. Inspectors as remediable under the Public Health Acts, but not under the Factory Act (s. 5) }	
Notified by H.M. Inspectors.	4
Reports (of action taken) sent to H.M. Inspectors.	
Other	21
Underground Bakehouses (s. 101) :—	
Certificates granted during the year	—
In use at the end of the year	2
Workshops on the Register (s. 131) at the end of year	234
Bakehouses under inspection	48
Total number of Workshops on Register	282

HOME-WORK.

CLASS.	Lists.	Out-Workers.	Number of addresses of Outworkers forwarded to other Councils.	No. of Inspections of Outworkers premises
<i>Outworkers' Lists, Section 107.</i>				
Lists received from Employers :— (Twice in the year).	16	36		
Wearing Apparel—				
(1) Making, &c.	14	32		65
(2) Cleaning and Washing				
Furniture and Upholstery	2	4		8
Totals	16	36		73

BOROUGH HOSPITAL.

Number in Hospital, on December 31st, 1908	...	7
Number of Scarlet Fever Cases admitted from January 1st, 1909, to December 31st, 1909	...	106
Number of Small Pox Cases admitted from January 1st, 1909, to December 31st, 1909	...	0
Number of Scarlet Fever (Discharged Cured)	...	89
Number of Small Pox (Discharged Cured)	...	0
Number of Deaths from Scarlet Fever	...	9
Average Number of days each patient discharged remained in Hospital	...	50
Remaining in Hospital on December 31st, 1909	...	17

Typhoid Fever.—One case, notified November 11th, 1909; male, aged 42 years. The case was imported from Bewdley into our Workhouse Infirmary. Patient recovered.

Anthrax.—Four cases. First, male, aged 38 years, brewer by trade; treated in our Infirmary and recovered. House cleansed and disinfected and all precautions taken. Second, male, aged 26 years, dyehouse labourer in carpet mill in town; treated in our Infirmary and recovered. House cleansed and disinfected, clothing disinfected, all precautions taken. Third, male, aged 36 years, packer in spinning mill in the town; treated at home and died. Walls of house were stripped of paper and sprayed, all deceased's clothing and bedclothes were burnt, and all precautions taken. Fourth, male, aged 25 years, labourer in the wool department in a spinning mill in the town; treated in our Infirmary and recovered. All bed clothing well disinfected, house cleansed and disinfected, and all precautions taken.

Scarlet Fever.—Sixty-two cases. Forty-nine removed to Hospital and two deaths. Ten houses had two cases in each house; one house had three cases in it. There were sixty-two cases in thirty-six separate localities.

In consequence of six cases occurring within 13 days and attending the Worcester Cross School, I advised the closing of the school for one month, which has been done; also we have had the school disinfected.

On Sunday, September 19th, the Inspector reported he had found a child running about in the Hoo Road which in his opinion was desquamating after scarlet fever. I forthwith accompanied the Inspector to the house and found the child very freely desquamating, and at once ordered it into the Borough Hospital. I was informed the child had been taken ill fourteen days previously and was put to bed, no medical man being called in. When I saw it, it had been up several days. The parents stated that they had no idea it was Scarlet Fever or they would have called in a medical man. It is quite probable that several of these cases were a result of this case.

DIPHTHERIA CASES, 1909.

17 Cases, one death.

DATE OF NOTIFICATION.	ADDRESS.	SURROUNDINGS.
January 23rd	6, Back New Place	Yard paved, drains trapped,
January 31st	Hurcott Road	water closets
February 10th	Kidderminster	Non-resident (died)
	Infirmery	
	79, Park Lane	Yard paved, drains trapped,
March 10th	1, York Street	water closet
March 14th	42, Woodfield	Yard paved, drains trapped,
April 17th	Street	water closet
	Church Street	Yard paved, drains trapped,
May 24th	112, Mill Street	water closet
July 10th	Kidderminster	Yard paved, drains trapped,
July 12th	Infirmery	water closet
	53, Baxter Avenue	Non-resident
July 12th	25, Franchise	Yard paved, drains trapped,
July 12th	Street	water closet
July 12th	25, Franchise	Yard paved, drains trapped,
August 25th	Street	water closet
	86, Park Lane	Yard paved, drains trapped,
September 30th	46, Queen Street	water closet
October 26th	45, Lea Street	Yard not paved, drains
October 26th	45, Lea Street	trapped, water closet
December 11th	58, St. George's	Yard paved, drains trapped,
December 13th	Terrace	water closet
	58, St. George's	Yard paved, drains trapped,
	Terrace	water closet

Copy of Report sent to the Local Government Board, by their request, on August 30th, 1909.

Measles.—Agreeably to the request of the Local Government Board, contained in their letter of the 13th inst., I beg to report as follows:—

The first case of measles that came to my knowledge was on February 22nd last. On the 2nd of March a list of children was received who were stated to be absent from the Bennett Street Infants' School suffering from measles. After verifying the cases, the school was closed the next day until March 22nd, 1909. On March the 8th, a list of children was received, who were absent from St. John's Infant School, stated to be suffering from measles. The cases were verified and the school closed on March 9th until March 27th.

The disease continued to spread from school to school at short intervals, and the following were closed:—

St. George's Infants' School,	from March 18th to April 3rd
New Meeting Infants' School, „	March 31st to April 17th
Worcester Cross School, „	April 6th to April 19th
St. George's Infants' School, „	Same Dates
Lca Street Infants' School „	April 19th to May 17th
St. Mary's Infants' School „	Same Dates
Coventry Street Infant School „	Same Dates
Hume Street Infants' School „	May 19th to June 14th

In my opinion the only effect of closing the schools was, if anything, to retard slightly the progress of the disease.

During March there were three deaths. At the beginning of the quarter ending June 30th, 1909, measles became epidemic and of a very severe type, the deaths in the quarter being 33. Twenty-three of these occurred in April. The oldest registered death was aged nine years and the youngest five months; average age two years. Twenty-six of these cases were registered as "Measles, Broncho-Pneumonia." In all, there have been 36 deaths, 28 of which were similarly registered. The last death was in the week ending June 12th.

There is no doubt the weather had something to do with the above mortality. During a great part of the time it was dull and wet, with a north-west wind blowing; the temperature below normal. The rain-fall for the three months was 5.38 inches, registered in 35 days. Most of the children were visited in their homes, and leaflets were distributed giving full directions how to act upon the first symptoms of measles showing. I am, however, afraid that the instructions were not carried out as strictly as they might have been, especially with regard to keeping the children confined indoors and in one room.

I was unable to trace the origin of the outbreak, but measles were prevalent in the district, and more especially in Birmingham. The intercourse between this town and Birmingham district is constant.

All the schools were disinfected with sulphur, and the floors sprinkled with disinfectant fluid.

This has again been done during the present month.

Respiratory Diseases.—Under this heading are included: Pneumonia, Bronchitis, and Pleurisy. During the year 88 deaths have been registered, being 22 deaths more than in 1908.

Phthisis.—The deaths from this disease have been nine more than in 1908, being 28 deaths. I have prepared a table showing what were the occupations of the deceased persons. Two of the 28 cases occurred in the Infirmary.

Infantile Mortality.—Compared with last year our total births are more by 38, being 560 for 1909, and 522 for 1908. The mortality of infants under 12 months is 90 for 1909, against 63 for 1908. This causes our infantile mortality per 1,000 births to be more than in 1908, viz.: 160·71, against 120·68 for 1908.

The following shows you the ages at which the deaths of the infants under 1 year occurred.

Under 1 Week	1-2 Weeks	2-3 Weeks	3-4 Weeks	Total Under 1 Month	1-2 Months	2-3 Months	3-4 Months	4-5 Months	5-6 Months	6-7 Months	7-8 Months	8-9 Months	9-10 Months	10-11 Months	11-12 Months	Total Deaths under 1 Year
19	9	4	4	36	8	16	5	4	3	3	3	2	4	4	2	90

On Table 5 you will find the causes of death.

We still continue to supply the Registrar with copies of instructions on the rearing and feeding of infants, which are handed to each person registering a birth. I am of an opinion that this method of distributing useful information to the right persons is beginning to bear fruit. Our infantile mortality for 1909 is above the average for the past ten years. Average for past ten years, 146·57 : for 1909 160·71 per 1,000 births.

I must point out that a large section of our female population are employed in the spinning and carpet factories of the town.

The Birth Rate per 1000 population is 22·67; in 1908 it was 21·13. I have prepared a table on page 17, showing the excess of births over deaths since 1890, a period of 20 years.

Marriages.—The number of marriages which took place within the Borough for 1909 was 169. The number for 1908 was 207.

Illegitimacy.—Twenty-nine births have been registered during the year. Males, 17; Females, 12; Four of the births occurred in the Workhouse. Total illegitimate births for 1908, 35.

Hospital.—The Hospital work for the year has been heavier than last year. Cases for 1908, 76; 1909, 106. The following are the cases I have received and treated:

From the Borough	..	49	2 Deaths.
From Stourbridge and Halesowen	..	40	2 „
From the Rural District of Kidder-			
minster	..	13	1 „
From Bewdley	...	3	
From Martley	...	1	
		-----	-----
		106	5 Deaths.
		-----	-----

Factory and Workshops Acts —The workshops and workplaces are regularly inspected, and on the whole are in a satisfactory condition.

Section 22 of the Public Health Act Amendment Act, 1890, is in force in Kidderminster. The Standard of sufficiency and suitability of sanitary accommodation which we adopt is that contained in the Home Office order, No. 89, of 1903.

Foods and Drugs Acts.—The usual number of samples have been taken under this Act. The details will be found in the Sanitary Inspector's report appended.

Court Sweeping.—The sweeping is still carried on satisfactorily. The work is most valuable in contributing to the sanitary condition of the Borough.

Dirty Houses.—I have certified 274 houses that required cleansing and whitewashing, as per section 46 of the Public Health Act, 1875, and twenty under section 5 of the Infectious Diseases (Prevention) Act, 1890.

Household Ashes and Refuse.—We are still able to dispose of our household ashes and refuse without difficulty. The bulk of it goes by Canal to Oldington Farm. The whole of this work is now done by our own staff.

Sewers.—Complaints concerning the sewers have been few during the year. Complaints, when received, have immediate attention from the Surveyor's department.

Water Supply to our Borough is constant and of excellent quality, being supplied from four artesian wells as will be seen from the Public Analyst's certificate.

[COPY].

PUBLIC ANALYST'S LABORATORY,
10, VICTORIA STREET,
WOLVERHAMPTON,
24TH DECEMBER, 1909.

Certificate to KIDDERMINSTER TOWN COUNCIL.

Two samples of water sent by your Surveyor (Mr. A. James) on the 16th inst. :

(a) From Corporation new Well at Green Street, Dec. 15, at 3.15 p.m.

(b) From Reservoir, Dec. 15, at 4 p.m.

	(a)		(b)
	Grains	per	Gallon.
Total Solid Matter, dried at 212° F.	... 14.0	...	12.6
Free and Saline Ammonia	... 0.000	...	0.000
Albuminoid Ammonia	... 0.0015	...	0.0019
Nitric Nitrogen	... 0.14	...	0.14
Combined Chlorine	... 1.54	...	1.54
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hrs at 80° F.	... 0.007	...	0.004
Injurious Metallic Contamination	... None		None
Appearance	Each very slightly turbid		
Colour through 2 feet	Each very pale bluish-green tinge		
Hardness before Boiling	... 8.48	...	8.05
„ after „	... 5.70	...	5.20
Temporary Hardness	... 2.78	...	2.85

These two waters are practically the same; each is organically clean, free from sewage or animal contamination, and generally suitable for drinking and domestic use.

(Signed)

E. W. T. JONES, F.I.C.
Borough Analyst.

Closure of Schools.—During the year on my advice the following Schools have been closed in consequence of outbreaks of measles and scarlet fever:—

For Measles.

Schools.	Period.
Bennett Street Infants	March 3rd, 1909, to March 22nd, 1909
St. John's Infants	March 9th, 1909, to March 27th, 1909
St. George's Infants	March 18th, 1909, to April 3rd, 1909
” ” ”	April 6th, 1909, to April 19th, 1909
Worcester Cross	March 19th, 1909, to April 3rd, 1909
” ” ”	April 6th, 1909, to April 19th, 1909
New Meeting Infants	March 31st, 1909, to April 17th, 1909
St. Mary's Infants	April 19th, 1909, to May 17th, 1909
Lea Street Infants	April 19th, 1909, to May 17th, 1909
Coventry Street Infants	April 19th, 1909, to May 17th, 1909
Hume Street Infants	May 19th, 1909, to June 14th, 1909

For Scarlet Fever.

Worcester Cross	Sept. 30th, 1909, to Oct. 28th, 1909
-----------------	--------------------------------------

Housing of the Working Classes Act, 1890.—During the year I have reported the following houses as being unfit for human habitation, and notices have been served upon the owners ordering them to be made fit for human habitation:—

1 and 2, York Place, Clensmore	..	Repaired and made fit
19 and 20, Queen Street	..	Repaired and made fit
21 and 22, Queen Street	..	Houses closed
2 and 3 in 3 Court, Hall Street	..	Repaired and made fit
23 and 24, Queen Street	..	Houses closed

Medical Inspection of Schools.—This work is under the control of the School Medical Officer to the Education Committee (Dr. Griffiths) whose report to me I have pleasure in herewith presenting:—

“The three inspections have been carried out during the past twelve months, in accordance with the Regulations.

“The condition of the children as a whole was satisfactory. The severe epidemic of measles, however, which occurred at the commencement of the year had its effect in depressing the health of a large number of the children affected for some time.

“The two schools to which exception was taken as regards means of escape from fire, have now been provided with external staircases leading from an emergency exit, and are now satisfactory in that respect.

“The heating arrangements, however, in several of the schools are still very defective.”

The following notices I advised to be issued, and have reason to believe they have had the desired effect.

BOROUGH OF KIDDERMINSTER.

WARNING.

Cows Overstocked with Milk in the Cattle Market.

Notice is hereby given that all persons who dispose of Milk obtained from Cows in this market for Human Consumption, and who are not Registered Purveyors of Milk, render themselves liable to be prosecuted for illegally Selling Milk.

Attention is further called to the fact that persons who milk Cows in the Market, must use clean, regulation milk cans.

Failing the adoption of proper and cleanly precautions, such persons will be liable to have their Milk seized and dealt with as being unfit for human consumption.

DAVID CORBET,

Medical Officer of Health.

5/2/09.

BOROUGH OF KIDDERMINSTER.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

To Cowkeepers, Dairymen, and Purveyors of Milk.

The Health Committee desire to call the attention of Cowkeepers, Dairymen, and Purveyors of Milk, to the following regulations which must strictly observed :—

1.—Every milk vessel after use should be thoroughly cleansed with steam or clean boiling water.

2.—No vessel should be placed to dry or air near any offensive matter or accumulation

3.—Every vessel containing milk for sale shall be properly covered or otherwise sufficiently protected from contamination by dust or flies.

4.—No milk for sale should be stored in any room where any of the following articles are stored, fish, petroleum, paraffin or green-grocery, or in any place where milk might be contaminated by impure air.

5.—Every person obtaining milk from a cow for sale must observe the following points :—

6.—Before commencing to milk a cow, the udder and teats must be thoroughly clean.

7.—The hands and clothing of the person must be thoroughly clean and free from all infection and contamination.

8.—All cows under his care must be kept in a thoroughly clean and wholesome condition.

9.—All milk must be thoroughly sieved or strained before leaving the premises for sale.

NOTE:—Dirty milk may be seized as being unfit for human consumption.

Dated
May 24th, 1909.

By Order of the
HEALTH COMMITTEE.

The following forms of notice will show our present method of keeping the School Medical Officer, the Head Teachers, and Parents informed of all cases of Infectious Disease notified to the Health Department:—

BOROUGH OF KIDDERMINSTER.

Health Department.

NOTICE

Sir,—I HEREBY GIVE YOU NOTICE that your child who is [has been] suffering from infectious disease [or has been exposed to infection] is *not* to be sent to school without and until you have procured from me a certificate (which will be granted free of charge upon application) that in my opinion such child may attend school without undue risk of communicating such disease to others.

I ALSO GIVE YOU NOTICE that if you do not obey this notice you are liable to a penalty not exceeding Forty Shillings.

I am, your obedient servant,
(Signed) DAVID CORBET,
Medical Officer of Health.

BOROUGH OF KIDDERMINSTER.

Health Department.

To the Head Master or Mistress, School.

Dear Sir or Madam,

I HEREBY GIVE YOU NOTICE that a case of , viz.,
aged , has been notified to exist at Mr. house, No.
Street. The following children must not attend your school for
at least from the date of this notice

I am, your obedient servant,
DAVID CORBET,
Medical Officer of Health.

BOROUGH OF KIDDERMINSTER.

Health Department.

To the School Medical Officer (Dr. J. C. Griffiths).

Sir,—A case of viz , aged, , has been notified to exist at No. Street. The patient has not been removed to the Borough Hospital.

Children residing in this house attend the following schools:—

Yours truly,

DAVID CORBET,

Medical Officer of Health.

BOROUGH OF KIDDERMINSTER.

CERTIFICATE.

Town Hall, Kidderminster.

I, the undersigned, David Corbet, the Medical Officer of Health for the Urban District of Kidderminster, HEREBY CERTIFY THAT a child who has been [suffering from infectious disease, or exposed to infection] and ordered not to attend school, may now attend school without due risk of communicating disease to others.

(Signed)

DAVID CORBET,

Medical Officer of Health.

Allow me again, at the end of another year, to thank the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Members of the Health Committee for the support they have given me in the carrying out of my duties.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

DAVID CORBET,

Medical Officer of Health.

*To the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, and
Members of the Health Committee.*

NATURAL INCREASE OF POPULATION.

Excess of Births over Deaths since 1890.

Year.	Total Births.	Total Deaths.	Excess of Births over Deaths.
1890	701	448	253
1891	729	452	277
1892	674	478	196
1893	668	431	237
1894	641	391	250
1895	637	471	166
1896	614	398	225
1897	617	427	190
1898	568	394	174
1899	571	436	135
1900	600	542	58
1901	622	496	126
1902	622	433	189
1903	637	414	223
1904	627	469	158
1905	590	395	195
1906	615	374	241
1907	550	336	224
1908	522	364	158
1909	560	483	87

The excess of births over deaths, 1890 to 1899, was 2,113. During the latter ten years it has fallen to 1659, showing a decrease of excess of 454 on the previous ten years.

Average Births per annum for past 20 years, 628·2.

Average excess of births over deaths :—

1st 10 years	...	...	210·3
2nd „	...	...	165·9
And for the whole	...	...	188·1

First 10 years was 14 above the average for 20 years.

Second 10 years 14 below the average.

Deaths.

1889 to 1898	...	...	4317
1899 to 1908	...	...	4261
Difference	...	...	<u>56</u>

CANCER.

Under the title of "Cancer" are comprised: Deaths from Cancer, Carcinoma, Malignant Disease, Scirrhus, Epithelioma, Sarcoma, Villous Tumour, and Papilloma of Bladder, and Rodent Ulcer, different terms for or different structural manifestations of the disease.

Deaths during the Year, 1909.

OCCUPATIONS OF DECEASED PERSONS :—

Domestic	...	..	13
Weaver	...	..	2
Bricklayer	...	...	1
Forewoman	...	...	1
Coachman	...	...	1
Carter	...	...	1
Accountant	...	...	1
Designer	.	...	1
Cooper	.	..	1
Laundress	...	..	1
			—
			23
			—

PHTHISIS.

Deaths during 1909.

OCCUPATIONS OF DECEASED PERSONS :

Domestic	...	...	12
Clerk ...	...	...	2
Carpet Picker	...	...	2
Weaver	...	...	1
Wool Drawer	...	...	1
Labourer	..	...	2
Door Keeper	...	...	1
Musician	...	...	1
Painter	...	...	1
Salesman	...	...	1
Printer	..	...	1
Iron Dealer	..	...	1
Grocer	...	...	1
Shop Assistant	...	...	1
			—
			28
			—

Ten Years' Mortality from Cancer.

Date.	Number.		
1900	.	..	25
1901	22
1902	27
1903	23
1904	26
1905	24
1906	30
1907	17
1908	25
1909	19
Total		228
Average		22

Ten Years' Mortality from Phthisis.

Date.	Number.		
1900	31
1901	26
1902	27
1903	27
1904	20
1905	21
1906	19
1907	21
1908	19
1909	28
Total		239
Average		24

INQUESTS HELD DURING 1909.

1.	NATURAL CAUSES	...	...	...	4
2.	ACCIDENTS	...Motor Cycle colliding with Cart	...	...	1
		...Falls	...	...	2
		...Burned	...	...	3
		...Blood Poisoning	...	...	1
		...Hand Crushed by Machinery	...	...	1
		...Drowned	...	...	1
3.	OTHERS	...Miscarriage brought about by Lead			
		Poisoning	...	...	1
		...Anthrax	...	...	1
		...Found Drowned	...	..	1
					<hr/>
					16
					<hr/>



Table 1. Vital Statistics of whole District during 1909 and previous Years.

Year.	Population estimated to Middle of each year.	BIRTHS.		TOTAL DEATHS REGISTERED IN THE DISTRICT.				Deaths of Non-Residents registered in Public Institutions in the District.				Deaths of Residents registered in Public Institutions beyond the District.		Nett Deaths at all ages belonging to the district.	
		Number.	Rate.*	Under 1 year of age.		At all ages.		Total Deaths in Public Institu- tions in the District	Deaths of Non-Residents registered in Public Institutions in the District.	Deaths of Residents registered in Public Institutions beyond the District.	Number.	Rate.*			
				Number.	Rate per 1000 Births registered.	Number.	Rate*								
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13			
1899	25,000	571	22·84	87	152·36	436	17·44	97	37	2	401	16·04			
1900	25,000	600	24·00	103	171·66	542	21·68	133	43	0	499	19·96			
1901	24,681	622	25·20	128	205·78	496	20·08	105	40	1	457	18·51			
1902	24,700	622	25·18	88	141·47	433	17·53	115	44	7	396	16·03			
1903	24,700	637	25·78	70	100·98	414	16·76	129	54	19	379	15·34			
1904	24,700	627	25·38	95	151·51	469	18·98	135	39	6	436	17·65			
1905	24,700	590	23·88	86	145·76	395	15·99	102	35	0	360	14·57			
1906	24,700	615	24·85	84	135·58	374	15·14	101	35	0	339	13·72			
1907	24,700	550	22·26	77	140·00	366	14·81	101	30	0	336	13·60			
1908	24,700	522	21·13	63	120·68	409	16·55	140	45	0	364	14·73			
Averages for years. 1899-1908		595	24·05	90	146·57	433	17·49	115	39	3	396	16·01			
1909	24,700	560	22·67	90	160·71	483	19·55	113	39	2	444	17·97			

*Rates in Columns 4, 8, and 13, calculated per 1,000 of estimated population.

Table III.

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES
NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR, 1909.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.	CASES NOTIFIED IN WHOLE DISTRICT.						
	At all Ages.	At Ages—Years.					
		Under 1.	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 65.	35 and upw'ds
Small-pox ... ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cholera ... ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Diphtheria (including Membranous Croup) ...	17	4	7	2	4	..	..
Erysipelas	14	..	..	1	1	8	4
Scarlet Fever... ..	62	1	23	32	5	1	..
Typhus Fever ... ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Enteric Fever	1	..	..	..	..	1	..
Relapsing Fever ... ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Continued Fever ... ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Puerperal Fever ... ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Plague ... ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Anthrax	4	..	..	..	..	4	..
Totals	98	5	30	35	10	14	4

Table IV.

Causes of, and Ages at, Death during the Year 1909.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	Deaths at the subjoined ages of "Residents" whether occurring in or beyond the District.							Deaths at all ages of "Residents" belonging to localities whether occurring in or beyond the District.				Total Deaths, whether of "Residents" or "Non-Residents" in Public Institutions in the District.
	All Ages.	Under 1. Year.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 65.	65 and Upwards.	Infirmary.	Work-house.	Isolation Hospital	12	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
Measles ...	36	9	24	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Scarlet Fever ...	2	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	2
Whooping Cough ...	4	1	3	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1
Epidemic Influenza ...	3	3	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..
Diarrhoea ...	3	6	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..
Enteritis ...	8	5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Gastritis ...	5	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Erysipelas ...	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculous)	28	..	1	2	6	19	..	2	..	..	..	2
Other Tuberculous Diseases ...	15	4	4	1	3	3	..	2	1	..	..	2
Cancer, Malignant Disease ...	19	..	..	..	1	9	9	1	1	..	..	3
Bronchitis ...	66	14	2	..	1	18	31	7	..	..	..	6
Pneumonia ...	21	2	5	1	1	8	4	3	3	..	..	10
Pleurisy ...	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	9
Alcoholism, Cirrhosis of Liver	4	..	..	..	..	4	..	1	1	..	..	1
Premature Birth ...	18	18	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	2
Diseases and Accidents of Parturition...	2	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
Heart Diseases ...	21	..	1	..	1	15	5	1	..	..	..	1
Accidents ...	6	..	1	1	..	2	2	..	4	..	..	4
Anthrax ...	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	7
All other causes ...	180	27	6	4	5	42	96	31	14	..	..	65
All causes ...	444	90	49	12	18	125	150	49	25	2	..	115

Table V.

Infantile Mortality during the Year 1909.

Deaths from stated causes in Weeks and Months under One Year of age.

CAUSE OF DEATH.		Under 1 Week.	1-2 Weeks	2-3 Weeks	3-4 Weeks	Total under 1 Month.	1-2 Months	2-3 Months	3-4 Months	4-5 Months	5-6 Months	6-7 Months	7-8 Months	8-9 Months	9-10 Months	10-11 Months	11-12 Months	Total Deaths under One Year
All Causes.	{ Certified	19	9	4	4	36	8	16	5	4	3	3	3	2	4	4	2	90
	{ Uncertified	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
<i>Common Infectious Diseases:</i>																		
Measles	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
<i>Diarrheal Diseases:</i>																		
Diarrhoea, all forms	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Enteritis, Muco-enteritis, Gastro-enteritis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Gastritis, Gastro-intestinal Catarrh	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
<i>Wasting Diseases:</i>																		
Premature Birth	...	13	2	1	1	17	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	18
Congenital Defects	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Injury at Birth	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Atrophy, Debility, Marasmus	...	...	...	...	...	4	2	5	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
<i>Tuberculous Diseases:</i>																		
Tuberculous Meningitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Tuberculous Peritonitis: Tabes Mesenterica...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
<i>Other Causes:</i>																		
Meningitis (<i>not Tuberculous</i>)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
Pneumonia...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
Other causes	...	2	5	2	2	11	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
TOTAL		19	9	4	4	36	8	16	5	4	3	3	3	2	4	4	2	90

MONTHLY RETURN OF BIRTHS AND DEATHS

For the Borough of Kidderminster, as presented to the Health Committee at each Meeting held every fourth Monday.

BIRTHS.					DEATHS.				
Month ending.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Rate per 1000 of the population.	Month ending.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Rate per 1000 of the population.
1909.					1909				
Jan. 4	14	18	32	16.84	Jan. 4	15	13	28	14.73
Feb. 1	24	23	47	24.73	Feb. 1	17	16	33	17.32
Mar. 1	20	21	41	21.57	Mar. 1	22	26	48	25.26
Mar. 29	25	22	47	24.73	Mar. 29	30	23	53	27.89
April 26	21	27	48	25.26	April 26	30	31	61	32.11
May 24	24	26	50	26.30	May 24	28	31	59	31.05
June 21	21	26	47	24.73	June 21	13	15	28	14.73
July 19	27	13	40	21.05	July 19	12	11	23	12.10
Aug. 16	24	18	42	22.10	Aug. 16	8	7	15	7.89
Sept. 13	24	18	42	22.10	Sept. 13	12	10	22	11.57
Oct. 11	27	19	46	24.21	Oct. 11	16	11	27	14.21
Nov. 9	27	20	47	24.73	Nov. 9	14	12	26	14.09
Dec. 6	13	13	26	14.09	Dec. 6	25	20	45	23.68
Totals	291	264	555	22.47	Totals	242	226	468	18.94

BOROUGH HOSPITAL.

Showing Monthly Admissions of Scarlet Fever Cases from the following Locations during 1909.

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Totals.
Borough Cases ..	5	3	1	1	1	...	5	1	17	5	5	5	49
Workhouse Cases ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Infirmiry Cases ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Rural District Council Cases	...	3	1	...	...	...	...	2	1	...	1	5	13
Stourport Urban District Council Cases ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Bewdley Urban District Council Cases ..	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	3
Stourbridge and Halescwen Urban District Council Cases ...	10	14	16	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	40
Martley Rural District Council Cases ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
Monthly Cases ...	15	21	18	2	1	...	5	3	19	5	7	10	106

MONTHLY NOTIFICATIONS.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

1909.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.	October	Nov.	Dec.	Total 1909	Total 1908	Total 1907	Total 1906	Total 1905	Total 1904	Total 1903	Total 1902	Total 1901	Total 1900
Small Pox	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	5	...	...	...
Cholera ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria	2	1	2	1	1	..	4	1	1	2	..	2	17	11	8	8	10	22	45	30	43	75
Membranous Croup	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	..	...	..	2	4
Erysipelas	1	...	...	..	2	...	1	3	2	2	1	2	14	20	31	20	47	30	30	46	53	
Scarlet Fever	5	4	1	1	1	1	7	1	20	6	7	8	62	27	15	27	69	299	590	189	59	40
Typhus Fever	..	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	..	..	..
Typhoid Fever	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	..	..
Puerperal Fever	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	..	1	5	..	2	1	3	10	8	20
TOTALS	8	5	3	2	4	1	12	5	23	10	9	12	94	60	59	57	129	354	675	259	158	194

Street List of Deaths from all Causes.

Locality.	No. of Deaths.	Locality.	No. of Deaths.
Albert Road	.. 7	Leswell Street	... 2
Anchor Fields	... 4	Leswell Lane	... 1
Anchor Row	... 1	Lion Square	... 1
Back Queen Street	... 4	Lion Street	... 3
Baxter Avenue	... 7	Lorne Street	... 5
Bewdley Hill	... 3	Mason Road	.. 2
Brussels Street	... 1	Mill Street	... 11
Bewdley Road	... 3	Mill Lane	... 1
Blackwell Street	... 6	Mount Pleasant	... 1
Blakebrook	... 1	New Road	.. 5
Broad Street	... 12	Offmore Road	... 15
Brook Street	... 1	Orchard Street	... 5
Bromsgrove Street	... 12	Oxford Street	... 2
Birmingham Road	... 2	Paternoster Row	... 1
Castle Road	... 1	Pleasant Harbour	... 1
Canal Side	... 1	Park Butts	... 2
Chapel Street	... 2	Park Street	... 11
Cherry Orchard	... 5	Park Lane	... 8
Chester Road	... 2	Peel Street	... 2
Clarence Street	... 1	Pleasant Street	... 2
Clensmore Street	... 3	Plimsoll Street	... 5
Claughton Street	.. 1	Prospect Hill	... 1
Cobden Street	... 6	Prospect Lane	... 2
Crane Street	... 1	Queen Street	... 7
Corporation Street	... 1	Radford Avenue	... 4
Coventry Street	... 6	Rackfields	... 4
Comberton Road	... 3	Rock Terrace	... 1
Crescent Road	... 2	Silver Street	... 4
Cross Street	... 3	St. George's Terrace	.. 3
Crowther Street	... 1	St. John Street	... 3
Churchfields	... 2	Stourbridge Road	... 5
Coalfield Row	... 3	South Street	... 5
Church Street	... 3	Sutton Road	... 5
Charles Street	... 1	Shrubbery Street	... 2
Constitution Hill	... 1	Waterloo Street	... 3
Dudley Street	... 9	Washington Street	... 3
Dixon Street	... 1	Wood Street	... 9
East Street	.. 6	Woodfield Street	... 5
Edward Street	... 6	Woodfield Crescent	... 3
Fair Street	... 6	Worcester Street	... 8
Farfield Street	... 3	Yew Tree Road	... 2
Findon Street	.. 1	York Street	... 4
Franchise Street	... 2	York Place	... 2
Garrick Place	... 1	Union Street	... 1
George Street	... 3	Villiers Street	... 1
Hall Street	... 2	Workhouse	... 49
Hill Street	... 3	Infirmary	... 25
Hoo Road	... 7	Infectious Diseases	2
Hurcott Road	... 11	Isolation Hospital	
Habberley Street	... 3	Workhouse { Non-Residents }	13
Horse Fair	... 2	Infirmary { Residents }	26
Hume Street	... 3		
Jerusalem Walk	... 2	Total	... 483
Lark Hill	... 2		
Lea Street	... 8		

CASES OF PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS

Notified by the Poor-Law Officers in the Borough during
the year 1909.

	Sex.	Age.	Residence.	Occupation.	History.
F P.	Female	50	Workhouse	Tailoress	Father died of Phthisis
D.N.	Male	13	Jerusalem Walk	None	No history
E H.	Male	25	Wood Street	Boiler Maker	Since deceased, Grand- father died of Consumption
A.C.	Male	64	Workhouse	Hotel Porter	No history
F,P.	Male	40	Workhouse	Music Teacher	Since deceased, said to have originated from a cold
L.P.	Female	20	Hurcott Road	Weaver	Mother Consumptive
A.M.	Male	58	Workhouse	Weaver	Since deceased, father was Consumptive
M.G.	Female	2½	Back Queen St		Mother's brother died of Consumption
A.K.	Female	15	Workhouse	Worsted Spinner	Since deceased, mother died of Consumption
F W.	Male	45	Workhouse	Weaver	Brother died of Con- sumption
F E.	Male	24	Dudley Street	None	Grandfather, father, and two aunts died of Consumption

Each case is kept under supervision. Literature and disinfectants supplied
from the Health Department.

Sanitary Inspector's ANNUAL REPORT

For the Year 1909.

GENTLEMEN,

I have much pleasure in submitting my Twenty-fifth Annual Report on the work done in my Department for the Year ending December 31st, 1909.

Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops.

Purveyors not residing within the Borough	...	30
Purveyors residing within the Borough	...	53
Notices served to secure compliance with Regulations	..	4

The Milkshops, Cowsheds, and Utensils are regularly inspected as to cleanliness, etc. The number of Cowsheds in the Borough is 15.

Household Ashes and Refuse Collection.

Portable Receptables emptied	...	..	85,704
Dry Aspits emptied	...	...	2,790
Loads of Dry Refuse removed	...	..	5,264

Night Work.

Privies and Middens emptied	...	..	345
Loads of Nightsoil and Ashes removed	...	...	296

Refuse: How Disposed of.

Carted to Canal Boat for Oldington Farm	...	3,958 loads
Carted to Riddling Shed	...	54 "
Carted to Franchise Street	...	856 "
Sundry Tippings	...	489 "
Loads of Sewer Screenings tipped at Canal Basin	...	526 "
Loads tipped in Broadwaters Pool	...	203 "

Total	...	6,086
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No. of Boat Loads of Refuse taken to Oldington	150
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Report of the Inspector of Canal Boats.

Number of Boats inspected	..	253
Number believed to be in use or available	..	61
Number registered during 1909	..	3
Number of Boats that cannot be traced	..	2

NATURE OF INFRINGEMENTS :—

Notifications of change of master	..	0
Absence of certificate	..	0
Certificates not identifying owner with boat	..	0
Lettering and numbering	..	3
Partition separating the sexes	..	0
Females over 12 improperly occupying	..	0
Cleanliness	..	0
Painting	..	3
Ventilation	..	0
Dilapidation	..	0
Removal of Bilge Water	..	0
Without pump	..	0
Refusal of admittance to Inspector	..	0
No proper water vessel	..	0
Without requisite double bulkheads	..	0
Notification of Infectious Diseases	..	0
Certificates required renewing	..	3
Cabins out of repair and leaking	..	3

On the whole the Cabins are kept clean, very few women and children are met with on boats passing through the Borough. They are chiefly men who work the boats in this district.

In 10 instances the boats were worked by a man and his wife (only).

In 26 instances the boats had on board a man, his wife and one or more children, and 217 boats were worked by men (only).

A willingness is always shown by the canal boat people to comply with the Law and Local Government Board regulations.

SALE OF FOOD AND DRUGS ACTS, 1875 to 1899.

Samples taken during the year 1909, and results.

Informal Samples.	Formal Samples.	Article.	Genuine	Adulterated.	Extent of Adulteration (if any).	Result.
3	25	Milk ...	21	7	14 per cent. of added water 9 per cent. of added water 10 per cent. of added water 7 per cent. of added water 15 per cent. of added water 7 per cent. deficient in cream 12 per cent. deficient in cream	Informal sample, cautioned by the Health Committee. Informal sample, cautioned by the Health Committee. Fined £2 & costs } Total fines and costs £5 16s. Fined £1 & costs } Case withdrawn on payment of 16s. costs Cautioned by the Health Committee Fined 5s. and £1 costs, total £1 5s.
5	3	Butter ...	8			
3		Cream ...	3			
1		Bread and Butter	1			
1		Fluid Extract Cascara ...	1			
1		Turpentine ...	1			
1		Prescription ...	1			
1		Olive Oil ..	1			
1		Glycerine ...	1			
2		Diachylon ...	2			
1		Sugar of Lead ...	1			
20	28		41	7		

Informal Samples of Spirits tested by Sikes' Hydrometer, Thirteen.

The strengths varied from 20° U.P., to 26·7 U.P.

Circular Letter from the Board of Agriculture and Fisheries.

Board of Agriculture and Fisheries,
4, Whitehall Place,
London, S.W.
October 1st, 1909.

Sir,

I am directed by the Board of Agriculture and Fisheries to send to you the following information as to the adulteration of cream which they think may be of use to the officers of your Local Authority engaged in the execution of the Sale of Food and Drugs Acts.

A sample of an article apparently intended to increase the weight or bulk of the cream was recently purchased for one of the Board's officers and submitted to the Principal Chemist of the Government Laboratory. The report of the Principal Chemist on this sample is as follows :—

“ The examination of the sample gives the following results :

Water	83.46%
Proteins	11.90%
Lactose	1.55%
Milk fat	1.26%
Mineral matter	1.28%
Boric Acid .. .. .	.30%

“ The substance would appear to consist of some form of albuminoid matter which has been worked into an emulsion with milk and water. When received, the substance was thick and pasty, but in the the course of two days it became decomposed, and was then of the consistency of thin cream.

“ Cream to which this substance has been added is undoubtedly adulterated, and although the material does not appear to give any distinctive reaction, its detection in cream is not difficult if regard is had to the ratio between the non-fatty solids and fat, and particularly to the proportion of proteins in the non-fatty solids.”

Two other substances apparently intended to be used for concealing the inferior quality of poor cream have also been recently procured by an officer of the Board and analysed by the Principal Chemist of the Government Laboratory.

One of these articles is described as follows in the report of the Principal Chemist :—

“ The sample consists of a solution of lime in cane sugar syrup. This substance under various names has been in use for some years, and is said to have a remarkable effect in increasing the thickness of the cream. In ordinary analysis its presence

“would not be suspected as, if used in the quantities recommended . . . it would increase the ash of the cream only .04 per cent., and the total solids .19 per cent. There is, however, no reason why an analysis directed specially to the detection of cane sugar, and to the estimation of the relative proportion of lime in the ash, should not reveal the presence of this substance. Its use, even in these small quantities, gives a fictitious value to cream.”

The other article was of the same character, and is described as follows by the Principal Chemist in his report : —

“The sample consists of a solution of lime in cane sugar syrup, and is coloured with annatto colouring matter.”

It is impossible to ascertain to what extent or in what localities the vendors of these adulterants may have succeeded in effecting sales to dairymen, and I am to suggest that samples of cream should be taken in the district of your Local Authority, and that the Analyst should direct his attention to the question whether the samples of cream submitted to him contain adulterants of the nature above described.

There is also reason to suppose that gelatin and cornflour are used as adulterants of cream.

The Board will be glad to forward to you additional copies of this circular for distribution amongst the members of your Local Authority and the officers concerned on being informed of the number you require.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

T. H. ELLIOTT,

Secretary.

I obtained three samples of cream.

The Analyst's reports being as follows :—

	Sample No. 116.	Sample No. 117.	Sample No. 118.
Fat	49.80	36.45	37.42%
Solids not Fat ..	5.10	5.73	6.38%
Water	45.10	57.82	56.20%
	<hr/> 100.00	<hr/> 100.00	<hr/> 100.00
Ash	0.44	0.56	0.47
Boric Acid	0.25	0.37	None

Communication received from the Local Government Board.

Dr. J. M. Hamill's Report to the Local Government Board on "facing" and other methods of preparing rice for sale.

Dated May 21st, 1909.

This is a very able and instructive report. The subject being dealt with under the following heads:—

Sources, varieties and places of preparation.

Preparation of rice.

Milling and polishing.

Use of mineral polishing materials.

Use of colouring matter.

Use of Oil.

Extraneous mineral matter on foreign milled rice.

Estimation of extraneous mineral matter on rice.

Factors influencing the commercial value of rice.

Conditions under which rice is sold in this country.

Treatment of rice as a possible source of danger to health.

Treatment of rice in regard to "genuiness" and the requirements of the Sale of Food and Drugs Acts.

The polishing material in general use is talc (French Chalk) though glucose, glycerine and oil are occasionally used.

The following paragraphs extracted from the report will convey a general idea of the subject.

THE TREATMENT OF RICE AS A POSSIBLE SOURCE OF DANGER TO HEALTH.

There seems to be no reason for anticipating that injurious results are likely to follow the use of polishing materials if they are used in such a way that only comparatively small amounts, such as shown in the majority of analyses given above, remain in the rice.

At the same time, the presence in a food like rice of comparatively large quantities (such as 1 to 2 per cent.) of insoluble and possibly irritating mineral matter might in some circumstances be definitely prejudicial to health, especially as this food is often given in considerable quantities to children and invalids.

The quantity of mineral matter can, of course, be reduced by carefully washing the grains with cold water before cooking, but it is not desirable that the consumer should have to rely on this means of reducing the foreign matter which has been added.

With a view of testing whether rice treated with mineral oil would on that account be less easy of digestion than rice which had not been so treated, experiments were carried out by Dr. S. B. Schryver, D.Sc., in which it was found that the oil in oiled rice did not inhibit the action of the digestive enzymes nor render the

grain more difficult of digestion. As far as may be judged from an isolated investigation of this kind, the small quantity of oil employed in dressing rice appears to have no effect, but it should be said on the other side that, on general principles, use of a mineral oil should be avoided in any article of diet.

With regard to colouring matter, the amounts used in rice are small, and no objection in respect of risk to health need arise provided that colours are used, the reasonable fitness of which for dietetic purposes has been assured.

THE TREATMENT OF RICE IN REGARD TO "GENUINENESS" AND THE REQUIREMENT OF THE SALE OF FOOD AND DRUGS ACT.

Looking to the whole question it seems a matter for regret from the point of view of the consumer and of satisfactory trading, that the practice of polishing rice with mineral matter has been allowed to grow up and reach its present proportions. The gain to the consumer practically nil. To begin with, he as usually unaware that these polished rices are artificially treated, and other than natural rice grains; he takes the high polish as a sign of excellence and cleanliness, which is not warranted in fact. There is dietetic advantage in food being pleasing to the eye, but the differences between polished and unpolished rice are confined to the raw grain; after cooking no difference whatever can be detected in appearance between polished and unpolished samples of the same rice. The former has then no æsthetic advantage over the latter. Manipulation with foreign substances probably contributes not a little to the facility with which the sale of "kinds" and other substitutions of one variety of rice for another are made, and to this extent conduces to misdescription which can seldom be in the interests of the purchaser.

A further reason for drawing attention to the objections to polishing and like treatment is that these practices appear now to be extending to other cereals, such as pearl barley, hitherto sold in their natural condition without mineral admixture.

It is claimed by certain millers that polished rice is less liable to be attacked by weevils than unpolished rice, but I have met with no positive evidence in support of these contentions, and doubt is cast upon them by the United States Department of Agriculture. Hefelmann states that he was unable to detect any difference between glazed and unglazed rice as regards liability of attack, and rice containing even 1.6 per cent. of steatite was not protected thereby.

Reference may here be made to official requirements in Germany and in the United States as regards the treatment of rice.

In Germany, from a perusal of the literature dealing with this subject, it would appear that the authorities are inclined to consider as permissible the use of the talc merely as a lubricator (*Gleitmittel*) in the milling process, but not as a dressing for coating the rice (*zum Umkleiden*). The practical difficulty of detecting in which of the above ways talc has been used when found on rice has been met by the further statement that talc, if present in a weighable amount, should be regarded as an adulterant. In the quantity of rice usually taken for examination, a weighable amount would correspond to about 0.1 per cent. of the sample. I have been unable to obtain access to the original documents dealing with this point, but they are referred to by Forster, and Matthes and Müller.

In the United States the official definition of rice is "the hulled, or hulled and polished grain of *Oryza sativa*," in the series of pure food definitions issued by the United States Department of Agriculture. In their Food Inspection Decision No. 67, that Department expresses the opinion that in the case of "coated" rice a declaration should be made in all cases of the character of extraneous substances such as glucose, paraffin, talc, &c., with which the cereal has been treated.

It must be recognised that declaration in some such manner has the advantage of being educative. At the present time, polished or unpolished rice may be supplied indifferently by the retailer when merely rice is demanded, though in most cases a request simply for rice would be met with the polished article. Little or no difficulty would be experienced by the average customer in distinguishing between polished and unpolished rice, provided the existence of these two articles was generally recognised.

In England there is no official definition of genuine rice for the purpose of the Sale of Food and Drugs Acts, and no requirement as to the declaration of treatment such as polishing. Any action under these Acts in regard to rice considered not to be genuine would ordinarily be governed by consideration of the requirements of Section 6 of the Sale of Foods and Drugs Act, 1875, that the purchaser should not receive to his prejudice an article not of the nature, substance, and quality demanded. From what has been said it will be gathered that the practice of the trade might be pleaded as evidence that polishing with talc is needed for the production of the article now known by the public as rice, and that mineral matter left in the rice and detected by the analyst merely forms an addition which is required for the preparation of the article and is not intended fraudulently to increase its bulk, weight or measure, or to conceal inferior quality (Section 6 (1)).

In connection with this defence, account would have to be taken of the fact that a considerable quantity of rice is sold in this country in an unpolished condition. And there appear to be substantial grounds, at least, for questioning the admissibility of

this defence in cases where the polishing process has been so conducted as to leave material quantities of mineral matter in the rice. Talc is cheaper than rice, so that motives of economy can exert no restraining influence on the amount of talc which may be used. On reference to the analytical data given above on page 10, it will be seen that the quantity of insoluble mineral matter on rice has, in consequence of this addition, amounted, in some cases, to between 1 and 2 per cent. of the whole; quantities as large as these cannot be considered otherwise than as prejudicing the purchaser. The purchaser of rice requires rice, not rice and talc, and if polishing is regarded as permissible at all, on account of its trade advantages, it should only be tolerated when the amount of mineral matter which is left in the rice by the polishing process is so small as practically to be negligible. From what has been said of the practices of English and some Continental millers, an outside limit of not more than 0·5 per cent. of mineral matter would seem amply to meet the requirements of traders who represent this practice as necessary.

It seems desirable that the quantity of adventitious mineral matter should be determined by public analysts to whom rice samples are submitted under the Sale of Foods and Drugs Acts, and that the analyst's certificate should direct attention to samples in which the proportion of mineral matter exceeds the figure just mentioned. Authorities under these Acts may usefully consider such cases with a view to the institution of proceedings. Administration in this matter would probably be facilitated by taking samples in the first instance informally, and by giving suitable notice to vendors in the locality that the subject is engaging the attention of the authority, in order that any necessary precautions may be taken in obtaining future stocks.

J. M. HAMILL.

G. S. BUCHANAN,
Chief Inspector of Foods,
Local Government Board.

Unsound Food.

The following food has been condemned and destroyed.

Beef	..	..	297½lbs.
Pork	..	..	95 lbs.
Veal	..	..	70 lbs.
Mutton	..	..	97 lbs.
Fish	..	..	448 lbs.
Fruit	..	..	225 lbs.
Poultry	..	..	213½lbs.
Ham	..	..	114½lbs.
Vegetables	..	..	3 lbs.
Milk	..	..	1 quart
Livers and Lungs (14)	..	..	23 lbs.
			<hr/>
			1586½
			<hr/>

Visits from H.M. Inspectors.

During the year I have received visits from J. Evans, Esq., Inspector to the Board of Agriculture and Fisheries, relating to the administration of the Sale of Food and Drugs Acts in the Borough, and also from O. J. Llewellyn, Esq., relating to the administration of the Canal Boats Acts in the Borough.

Seats for Shop Assistants Act, 1899.

Many visits have been made, and no infringements have been discovered this year.

Disinfection.

Gallons of Fluid given away	...	320
Packets of Powder given away	...	1194
Dwelling-houses disinfected	...	87

Cabstands

The Cabstands are constantly flushed with the hose pipe, and disinfected. During the summer they receive attention twice daily.

Court Sweeping.

The work has had constant attention during the year. The sweeper, when on his rounds, has opened with his plunger 90 drains and 376 water closets, which he found blocked.

Drain Testing.

Year.	Drains tested by Smoke or Chemicals.	Found Defective.	Drains Repaired made sound or reconstructed.
1901	56	14	207
1902	104	41	79
1903	88	17	140
1904	164	84	165
1905	77	57	112
1906	80	53	70
1907	79	54	90
1908	51	46	86
1909	67	49	121

Common Lodging Houses.

One new house has been opened during the year, viz. :—
The Hill House, Orchard Street. It is one of the best appointed
Common Lodging Houses in Worcestershire.

The following are the localities of Common Lodging Houses
in the Borough, and the number of lodgers that may be received
therein.

Premises	Regis- tered.	Licen- sed.	Authorised Number of Lodgers.	Males or Females.
31, Blackwell Street ...	1		23	Males
32, Blackwell Street ...	1		16	Males and Females
36, Dudley Street ...	1		29	Males
23, Blackwell Street ...		1	18	Males and Females
24, Blackwell Street ...		1	14	Males and Females
4, Queen Street ...		1	22	Males and Females
5, Queen Street ...		1	20	Males
Hill House, Orchard Street		1	46	Males
Totals ...	3	5	188	

The houses are well conducted and kept clean.

Notices to School Teachers and others.

249 prohibition notices have been served on parents and school teachers to keep children from attending school from houses where infectious diseases have occurred.

Stray Dogs.

Thirty-one carcasses of dogs have been handed over to us by the Police for destruction.

Disinfection.

Disinfection has been carried out in all cases of Infectious Disease, and the infected houses cleansed.

Old Scrap—Tins, etc.

We have received £9 0s. 4d. for Old Scrap (metal tins, etc.)

The Thresh Steam Disinfector.

777 Articles of Clothing have been disinfected.

Bedding and wearing apparel removed by the department and burnt by request of owners.

Bedding	...	47 articles.
Clothing	...	30 articles.
Removed and burnt by order of the department.		
Bedding	...	14 articles.
Clothing	...	18 articles

Mortuary.

One body was received into the Public Mortuary during the year.

Remarks.

The other details of the work of my department are tabulated on the accompanying tables.

I have to thank your Committee for the support they have given me in the work of my department.

I am, Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

JOHN T. COWDEROY,

Sanitary Inspector.

*To the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and
Members of the Health Committee.*

Sanitary Defects and Nuisances abated 1909.

NATURE OF NUISANCE.	NUMBER.
Dirty Houses Cleansed and Whitewashed ...	274
" " " after Infectious Disease	20
W.C.'s, Premises require Limewashing ...	467
Yard Drains and W.C.' Choked and Cleared ...	53
Closet Pans, Seats, and Water Fitting out of Repair ...	157
Defective and Leaky Drains and Imperfectly Trapped Drain Inlets ...	121
Insanitary Sinks and Waste Pipes...	76
Insanitary Yards and Washhouse Paving ...	57
Accumulations of Manure and other Refuse ...	15
Defective Roofs of Houses, Floors and General Dilapidations ...	346
Dirty Workshops (Bakehouses) ...	12
Dirty Cowsheds ...	4
Insanitary Privies and Middens	{ 10 converted, 7 repaired
Dwelling Houses Overcrowded ...	
No Ash Receptacles ...	8
Dilapidated Ashpits ...	27
Defective Rain-water Spouting ...	20
Dirty Houses and premises (tenant's neglect)...	98
Dilapidated W.C.'s, W.H.'s and Urinals ...	34
Poultry and Animals improperly kept ...	166
Defective House Chimnies ...	8
Insufficient W.C. accommodation ...	15
Not complying with Byelaws relating to Slaughterhouses ...	8
Miscellaneous ...	3
	34
Total ...	2,036

Notices served for their abatement :—

Preliminary	...	...	636
Statutory	...	...	226
Reminders	...	...	74
			936
Notices complied with	...	...	899
Notices on Books December 31st, 1909			37
			936

**Locality and Number of Privies and Middens
in the Borough.**

LOCALITY.			Number of Privies.	Number of Middens.
Batham Street	...	...	2	2
Baxter Avenue	...	...	2	1
Back Queen Street	...	...	12	10
Bewdley Road	...	...	1	1
Blakebrook	...	...	2	1
Broadwaters	...	...	6	4
Chester Road	...	...	4	4
Church Street	...	...	2	2
Clensmore	...	...	1	1
Constitution Hill	...	...	11	10
Findon Street	...	...	3	3
Foxholes	...	...	2	2
Hoo Road	...	...	2	1
Hume Street	...	...	1	1
Hurcott Street	...	...	3	3
Lark Hill	...	...	2	2
Mill Street	...	...	4	3
New Road (Basin)	...	...	1	1
„ „ (Caldwall Mill)	...	...	1	1
Orchard Street	...	...	1	1
Park Lane	...	...	7	6
Prospect Lane	...	...	2	2
Sutton Road	...	...	4	3
Stourbridge Street	...	...	28	23
Talbot Street	...	...	1	1
Turton Street	...	...	3	3
Washington Street	...	...	4	4
Wood Street	...	...	1	1
Totals			113	97

Reduction on last year, Privies 22, Middens 11.

RAINFALL.

FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31ST, 1909.

Rain Gauge—Height on Top of Ground One Foot.

Location : The Brinton Park.

		Total Depth.	Greatest Rainfall in 24 hours.		No. of days on which .01 or more rain fell.
1909		Inches.	Depth.	Date.	
January	...	0.96	0.28	7th	14
February	...	0.43	0.23	10th	6
March	...	2.31	0.53	6th	20
April	.	1.53	0.31	22nd	11
May	...	1.06	0.52	24th	9
June	...	3.79	0.97	23rd	15
July	...	2.85	1.18	27th	18
August	...	1.45	0.64	17th	10
September	...	2.62	1.05	28th	17
October	...	2.19	0.31	15th	23
November	...	0.44	0.15	14th	11
December	...	3.25	0.71	21st	21
Totals	...	22.88	1.18	July 27	175

Total Rainfall.

1900	...	25.49	1905	...	19.53
1901	...	17.87	1906	...	21.81
1902	...	17.49	1907	...	22.78
1903	...	32.49	1908	...	21.84
1904	...	20.54	1909	..	22.88

Average Rainfall for past 10 years ... 22.27.

METEOROLOGICAL REPORT.

FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31ST, 1909.

From Observations taken at 9 a.m. daily.

Meteorological Station, Brinton Park.

Height above Sea Level, 159 feet.

Month.	Baro- meter.	Temperature.			Humi- dity.	Wind.
1909	Mean	Mean Max.	Mean Min.	Mean	Average Humi- dity.	Prevailing direction at 9 a.m.
January ...	30·20	42·7	30·6	36·5	91	S.W., S.E., S.
February ...	30·21	41·4	28·8	38·3	87	N.W., W., S.E.
March ...	29·21	44·0	30·3	36·1	79	S.E., N.W.
April ...	30·00	58·3	35·5	45·4	73	S.W., S.E.
May ...	30·13	63·3	38·2	48·3	68	N.W., S.W., S.E.
June ...	30·01	60·9	44·9	51·1	79	N.W., N.E., S.W.
July ...	29·93	67·3	50·1	56·8	75	S.W., N.W.
August ..	30·02	71·8	48·7	60·9	77	N.W., S.W., W.
September	29·79	60·1	45·1	51·4	89	N.W., S.W.
October ...	29·80	57·4	45·7	49·2	89	S.W., S.E., S.
November...	30·11	47·1	33·1	39·6	91	N.W., W.
December...	29·69	44·5	32·1	38·1	89	S., N.E., S.S.W.

**STREET LIST OF KNOWN CASES OF
INFECTIOUS DISEASES.**

STREETS.	Small Pox.	Measles.	Scarlet Fever	'Typhoid Fever.	Diphtheria.	Membranous Croup.	Erysipelas	Puerperal Fever.	TOTAL.
Anchor Row ..		1							1
Anchor Fields ..		1	1						2
Archhill Square ..		4					1		5
Albert Road ..		9	1						10
Back Queen Street ..		6							6
Baxter Avenue ..		9	1		1				11
Blackwell Street ..		5							5
Brussels Street ..		4							4
Bromsgrove Street ..		21	1						22
Bewdley Road ..		4							4
Broad Street ..		22							22
Charles Street ..		5							5
Coalfield Row ..			1						1
Coventry Street ..		2	1						3
Crane Street ..		1							1
Crescent Road ..		1	1						2
Churchfields ..		10							10
Clarence Street ..			1						1
Clensmore Lane ..		2							2
Cobden Street ..			1						1
Constitution Hill ..		6							6
Chapel Street ..		4					2		6
Cross Street ..		2							2
Chester Road ..			3						3
Clensmore Street ..		28							28
Church Street ..		1			1				2
Corporation Street ..		1	1						2
Dudley Street ..		3	1						4
East Street ..		17							17
Edward Street ..		2							2
Findon Street ..		2	1						3
Franchise Street ..		1			2				3
Fairfield Street ..		4							4
Garrick Place ..		2							2
George Street ..		8							8
Hall Street ..		4							4
Horse Fair ..		3							3
Hill Street ..		1							1
Hoo Road ..		14	5						19
Hurcott Road ..		14	2		1		2		19
Infirmery ..					2				2
Jerusalem Walk ..		1	2						3
Carried Forward ..		225	23		7		5		264

**STREET LIST OF KNOWN CASES OF
INFECTIOUS DISEASES.**

STREETS.	Small Pox.	Measles.	Scarlet Fever	Typhoid Fever.	Diphtheria.	Membraneous Croup.	Erysipelas	Puerperal Fever.	TOTAL.
Brought forward		225	33		7		5		254
Lion Street ..		2	1						3
Leswell Lane ..		1	1						2
Leswell Street ..			2						2
Lorne Street ..		11					2		13
Long Acre ..		3							3
Lea Street .		7			2				9
Mill Lane ..		2							2
Mount Pleasant ..		5							5
Mill Street ..		2			1				3
New Road ..		2	3						5
Orchard Street ..		3	3				2		8
Offmore Road ..		3	1						4
Oxford Street ..		1	3						4
Plimsoll Street ..		1							1
Park Butts ..			1						1
Prospect Lane ..		2							2
Pleasant Harbour..		3							3
Peel Street ..		5	1						6
Pitts Lane ..		4							4
Park Lane ..		9	2		2				13
Pleasant Street ..		6							6
Park Street ..		17	2				1		20
Queen Street ..		15	2		1				18
Radford Avenue ..							1		1
Swan Street ..			1						1
St George's Terrace		5			2				7
Silver Street ..		2							2
Shrubbery Street ..			2						2
Step Entry ..		1						2	3
South Street ..		2							2
Sutton Road ..			1				1		2
Stourbridge Road ..		1	1						2
Vine Street ..			1						1
Vicar Street ..			1						1
Woodfield Crescent..		1							1
Worcester Street ..		2							2
Woodfield Street ..		4			1				5
Wood Street ..		7	2				1		10
Windmill Row ..		1	2						3
Workhouse ..							1		2
York Street ..		2			1				3
Yew Tree Road ..		2	5						7
Totals ..		360	62		17		14	2	454

MAGISTERIAL PROCEEDINGS.

NATURE OF OFFENCE.	RESULT.
Selling Milk containing 10 % of added water	Fined £2 and costs
Selling Milk containing 7 % of added water	Fined £1 and costs
	Total fines and costs £5 16s. 0d.
Selling Milk containing 15 % of added water	Withdrawn on payment of costs, 16s.
Selling Milk 24 % deficient in cream	Fined 5s. and £1 costs Total, £1 5s. 0d.
Having in possession unsound Hams for sale	Fined £8 and £7 10s. 6d. costs Total costs & fine £15 10s 6d.
Selling an unsound Ham	Withdrawn of payment of costs £3 3s. 0d.

